## CLAIMS:

WE claim:

1.      A method of transforming source data from a source database to a target database in a data management system, the method comprising:

converting the source data to a format compatible with the target database, the converted source data containing object identification information;

matching object identifiers with corresponding object identification information contained in the converted source data if there is an existing directory containing object identifiers related to the object identification information contained in the converted source data; and

loading the converted source data into the target database.


2.      The method of Claim 1, wherein the data management system is a learning management system.


3.      The method of Claim 2, wherein the source data contains user and course information related to the learning management system.


4.      The method of Claim 3, further comprising updating the source database to include the object identifiers contained in the existing directory if a match is found.


5.      The method of Claim 4, wherein the object identification information and the

object identifiers relate to names of users of the learning management system.

6.      The method of Claim 5, further comprising manually selecting a match of object identifiers and corresponding object identification information if no match or if more than one potential match is found.

7.      The method of Claim 6, wherein if no match is found, further creating a file containing the object identifiers having a format similar to the converted source data.

8.      The method of Claim 6, wherein manually selecting a match of object identifiers and corresponding object identification information if more than one potential match is found further includes creating a file containing the potential matches and re-generating the matching process.

9.      A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program which when executed performs a method of transforming source data from a source database to a target database in a data management system the method comprising:

converting the source data to a format compatible with the target database, the converted source data containing object identification information;

matching object identifiers with corresponding object identification information contained in the converted source data if there is an existing directory containing object identifiers related to the object identification information contained in the converted source data; and

loading the converted source data into the target database.

10.     The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein the data management system is a learning management system.

11.     The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein the source data contains user and course information related to the learning management system.

12.     The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein the method performed by the stored computer program when executed further includes updating the source database to include the object identifiers contained in the existing directory if a match is found.

13.     The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12, wherein the object identification information and the object identifiers relate to names of users of the learning management system.

14.     The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13, wherein the method performed by the stored computer program when executed further includes manually selecting a match of object identifiers and corresponding object identification information if no match or if more than one potential match is found.

15.     The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein if no match is

found, further creating a file containing the object identifiers having a format similar to the converted source data.

16. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein manually selecting a match of object identifiers and corresponding object identification information if more than one potential match is found further includes creating a file containing the potential matches and re-generating the matching process.

17. A data transformation tool for transforming source data from a source database to a target database in a data management system, the tool comprising:

a data transformation utility adapted to convert the source data to a format compatible with the target database, the converted source data containing object identification information;

a data matching utility adapted to determine if there is an existing directory containing object identifiers related to the object identification information contained in the converted source data and to match the object identifiers with corresponding object identification information contained in the converted source data; and

a data loading utility adapted to load the converted source data into the target database.

18. The data transformation tool of Claim 17, wherein the data management system is a learning management system.

19.    The data transformation tool of Claim 18, wherein the source data contains user and course information related to the learning management system.

20.    The data transformation tool of Claim 19, wherein the data matching utility is further adapted to update the source database to include the object identifiers contained in the existing directory if a match is found.

21.    The data transformation tool of Claim 20, wherein the object identification information and the object identifiers relate to names of users of the learning management system.

22.    The data transformation tool of Claim 21, further comprising user intervention to manually select a match of object identifiers and corresponding object identification information if no match or if more than one potential match is found.

23.    The data transformation tool of Claim 22 further comprising a file containing the object identifiers having a format similar to the converted source data.

24.    The data transformation tool of Claim 22, further comprising a file containing the potential matches if more than one potential match is found.